†**श्री अबू आसिम आजमी:** सर, मेरा छोटा सा सवाल है, मंत्री जी केवल इसे सुन लें ...(**व्यवधान**)... मुंबई लोकल ट्रेन में जिस तरह औरतों के रिज़र्वेशन ...(व्यवधान)...

†[**شری ابوعاصم اعظمی** : سر، میرا چھوٹا سا سوال ہے، منتری جی صرف اسے سن لیں.....مداخلت.....ممبئی میں لوکل ٹرین میں جس طرح عورتوں کے رزرویشن.....مداخلت.....]

श्री उपसभापति: यह सवाल इससे संबंधित नहीं है, मेहरबानी से आप बैठिए। आपका सवाल, मूल सवाल से related होना चाहिए।

Agriculture as knowledge-based industry

*246. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:††

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is becoming a "knowledge-based" industry globally and in India if remains of subsistence level, although over 66 per cent of population depends on agriculture;

(b) if so, whether experts have urged India to move forward and be globally relevant like information technology;

(c) whether India is also a major exporter of several agricultural commodities and has earned top position in the production of milk, wheat, fruits and vegetables;

(d) whether Government have considered setting up more open universities for agriculture; and

(e) if so, the other steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Agriculture as knowledge based industry

(a) and (b) Agriculture globally and in India, is becoming knowledge intensive. The competition in agriculture has increased sharply on account of several factors such as increasing population, changing consumer

†Transliteration in Urdu Speech.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal.

preferences, resource fatigue, issues of productivity, profitability, sustainability and increasing input-use efficiency. Decline in international agricultural prices in real terms is further putting pressure for the improving cost and quality competitiveness. These factors have led to increased application of knowledge in agriculture. Proportion of output that goes as marketed surplus is 63% in rice, 73% in wheat, more than 50% in coarse cereal, 70-90% pulses, 68% in groundnut, 76% in rapeseed mustard and 96% in soyabean. This shows that major part of Indian agriculture is not subsistence but for commercial purpose. Emphasis is laid on accelerated use of information and communication technology (ICT), which is very relevant today.

(c) Indian share in global agriculture export is around 1.15%. India occupies top rank in milk production, and second in wheat, fruits and vegetables production in the world.

(d) and (e) Agricultural Education being a State subject, setting up of Agricultural Universities falls within the purview of the State Governments. However, for addressing the concerns of North-Eastern region, a Central Agricultural University has been set up by the Central Government at Imphal, Manipur.

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल: आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में कृषि मंत्री जी ने लिखित रूप में बड़े विस्तार से जवाब दिया है, मैं उनका धन्यवाद करती हूं। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि भारतवर्ष में हम 50 वर्षों में कृषि के क्षेत्र में सबल हुए हैं, हम खुद खा करके भी दूसरे देशों को अन्न दे सकते हैं, लेकिन आपदा काल में जब प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती हैं, कभी गर्मी ज्यादा होती है, कभी सर्दी ज्यादा होती है, कभी पानी नहीं होता है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारूपाल: मैं पहला प्रश्न यह पूछना चाहती हूं कि उस स्थिति में हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी क्या करते हैं? दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे भारतवर्ष में कृषि विश्वविद्यालय बहुत कम हैं। इस कमी के कारण हम अच्छे वैज्ञानिक तैयार नहीं कर सकते , जिससे हमें काफी परेशानी उठानी पड़ती है। तीसरी बात यह है कि किसानों को फ्री बिजली देनी चाहिए और जो दलित और कमजोर किसान हैं, उनको लाभ पहुंचना चाहिए, इसके बारे में कोई योजना है तो बताइए।

श्री शरद पवार: सर, जब संकट व आपदा की परिस्थिति रही है, इसका अन्दाज करके हम अपने देश में हमेशा बफर स्टॉक रखते हैं। 6 महीने तक देश के लिए जितनी रिक्वायरमेंट है, उतना

स्टॉक हम अपने देश में हमेशा रखते हैं। इसलिए कोई संकट आ गया, सूखा आ गया, फलड्स आ गए, तो ऐसी परिस्थिति में भी लोगों की अनाज की जो रिक्वायरमेंट है, उसे पूरी करने की ताकत आज सरकार के भंडारों में है और इस बारे में चिन्ता करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।

जहाँ तक आपने यूनिवर्सिटी की बात बताई है, आज देश में टोटल एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटीज़ 39 हैं और सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटीज़ दो हैं। देश की एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटीज़ की जो रिक्वायरमेंट है, इससे भी ज्यादा यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हमारे यहाँ हैं। आज नई यूनिवर्सिटी खोलने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। आज की जो यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हैं, यदि उन्होंने अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में पूरा काम किया, ज्यादा ध्यान दिया, तो इस क्षेत्र में जो रिसर्च एंड एजुकेशन, इन दोनों क्षेत्रों में जो काम करना हैं, वह पूरा हो सकता हैं।

श्री उपसभापतिः आपका सेकंड सप्लीमेंटरी तो नहीं है न। डा॰ टी॰ सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, we all know that agriculture is very important for the Indian economy. In this connection, I would like to know whether India has approached developed countries to provide us the latest technology in agriculture and also improve our scientific universities in the country to train more and more scientists in order to provide impetus to this agriculture sector.

Secondly, the hon. Prime Minister while inaugurating the Indian office of the International Food Policy for Research Institute in the Campus has pointed out that private-public partnership could play a pivotal role for bringing about second Green Revolution to stimulate the agriculture sector that sustains around 60 per cent of the country's population. What action is the Agriculture Ministry taking on what the Prime Minister has stated? What action is the Ministry taking to approach various developed countries to get the latest technology and the scientific approach?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the farming community and the scientific community of this country, which are working for years together in various agricultural universities and various institutions which have been set up under the umbrella of the ICAR, have contributed a lot. We have succeeded to resolve the basic problem of food security; and the credit goes to the farmers. There are no two opinions about it. We are self-sufficient today. We are also exporting a little bit of surplus foodgrains. But if we study the overall growth rate of our populaltion, it shows that in another five to seven years' time, the requirment of foodgrains would be definitely more. From that angle, the hon. Prime Minister has made a statement that the country needs second Green Revolution. If we have to, ultimately, fulfil the desire

of the Prime Minister, we shall have to take many corrective steps. A number of steps have been taken during this year. The important question, which was put by the hon. Member, was whether we have discussed it or have got any information or have arrived at any udnerstanding with some of the developed countries. Recently, the Prime Minister had visited America. In his US visit, he had a detailed discussion with the American authorities, including the American President. We have reached an understanding and we have signed one Knowledge Initiative Agreement between India and the USA. The main idea of the Knowledge Initiative Agreement is, whatever advance stage of research they have, that should be given to India. That is one thing. Secondly, there is an understanding between the two countries in the area of agriculture education. Recently, I had visited Israel. We had a discussion with the Government of Israel on the proposal whether we can take support from the Israeli Government in the area of rainfed agriculture, in the area of horticulture and in the area of upgradation of cattle genetically and by other means.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would first like to thank the hon. Minister for giving quite a substantial reply. But there are areas of concern as well. If I see the reply, a very substantial proportion of our agriculture produce is for commercial purposes, not for subsistence. But our global share in agriculture export is only 1.15 per cent. Obviously, so far as milk production is concerned, we are on the top. This is a serious gap which we notice, and until this gap exists, we shall be lagging behind in global competitiveness. My supplementary has two components; (a) What is the reason for this low proportion of export? (b) Does the Government propose to reduce contract farming for increasing export in agriculture?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the Government has introduced contract farming. In fact, we have requested all the State Governments that they should change their APMC Act, and they should encourage contract farming. Some of the States like Punjab have already taken initiative in contract farming. I think, the other States also have started taking interest in the idea of contract farming, and this will, definitely grow. The second important point is, it is true that we are quite surplus in many areas. For example, we are surplus in milk production. In wheat, we are No.2 in the world;

again, in vegetables, we are No.2 in the world. Also, in some of the horticulture items like banana, we are the largest producer of banana. We are the largest producess in certain other items. But there are some other issues; for instance, though we are the largest producer of milk in the whole world, but if we study and compare our per lactation milk with any other country, our position is quite disturbing. That is why unless and until we improve our per hectare yield, we will not be able to become competitive. Today that is a serious problem which the Indian agriculture is facing. And, unless and until there is a substantial investment in the agriculture sector, —this sector is lacking in investment—we will not be able to compete internationally. That is why our total approach is to provide more money for irrigation purpose, more money for other facilities, try and develop more infrastructure for agriculture marketing and provide facilities in such a fashion where the Indian agricultural producers will be able to export, and the Indian farmers can become a global player.

श्री विजय जे॰ दर्डा : धन्यवाद, महोदय आज हमारे देश में कृषि तीन विभागों में बंटी हुई है - एक वह जो सघन है, दूसरे जिनको कैनाल और पानी की पूरी व्यवस्था है और तीसरे जो ड्राई लैंड पर काम करते हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से कृषि मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि कृषि मंत्रालय ने कई तकनीक का विकास करने के साथ विदेशी तकनीक का कृषि क्षेत्र में हस्तांतरण करने के लिए अब तक कितनी विदेशी संस्थाओं के साथ एम0ओ0यू0 साइन की है और विशेषकर बंजर जमीन को उपजाऊ बनाने के लिए कौन-कौन सी तकनीक का प्रस्ताव आपके सामने है?

श्री शरद पवार : महोदय, अन्य देशों के साथ हमने क्या किया है, यह डिटेल्ड इंफॉर्मेशन मुझे कलैक्ट करनी पड़ेगी। यह बात सच है कि कई देशों के साथ हमारे एम0ओ0यू0 साइन हुए हैं और कई देशों को हम मदद करते हैं। दुनिया के कई अंडर-डवलेप्ड कंट्रीज और डवेलपिंग कंट्रीज को कृषि क्षेत्र में सहयोग देने व सलाह देने की टैक्नॉलोजी के फैलाव का काम भारत के माध्यम से होता हैं। नई टैक्नालोजी लाने के बाद इस बारे में कुछ डवलप्ड कंट्रीज के साथ थोड़ी-बहुत बातचीत हुई है और खास तौर पर जैसे मैंने पहले कहा यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स ऑफ अमेरिका के साथ बातचीत हुई है। उनके साथ थोड़ा-बहुत एग्रीमैंट हुआ है और इजराइल के साथ बात चालू हैं। जहां तक वेस्ट लेंड की बात है, वेस्ट लैंड के लिए under rural development, there is a special programme to see how to bring wasteland under cultivation.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, there is a peculiar discontent which is displayed in Indian agriculture today. On the one hand, as the reply States, most of the agriculture is for commercial purpose. At the same time, one finds that per capita availability of foodgrains is actually coming down. Now questions are coming up as to whether exports should go up and all

that. But for this, we should address the question of food security. Now, what important measures is the Agriculture Ministry taking in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we will not compromise on the question of food security. We are giving top-most priority for food security and, that is why, our continuous efforts are to improve the per hectare yield; our continuous efforts are to improve our procurements and make available foodgrains enough to all the States, and we are exactly working on it.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Sir, recently, some people from Aghanistan had visited Ladakh to study the high altitude agricultural development that has taken place there. I would like to know from the Agricultural Minister whether he would like to give some more support to the Agricultural University of Jammu and Kashmir to develop further in that high altitude agricultural sector.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Certainly. We will be happy to do that. Let the proposal come from the State Goverment and the University and we will give directions to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research that they should pay special attention to an area like Ladakh.

SHRIMATI S.G.INDIRA: Sir, we are talking of agriculture becoming a knowledge-based industry. But the real fact is that Indian farmers are not even aware of the schemes being implemented by the Government of India. For example, a survey recently conducted brought out the fact that 91 per cent of Indian farmers do not even know what the Minimum Support Price is and where they have to sell their produce. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would come forward in this regard, and whether the Ministry would give financial assistance to the State Governments to spread awareness amongst the farmers.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Well, we should not forget one thing that Agriculture is a State Subject. That is why these types of issues have to be essentially resolved by respective State Goverments. Of course, I have myself seen that particular report which says that a sizeable section of the farming community does not know what is meant by MSP. I have decided to write to all the State Agriculture Ministers to bring to their notice that this type of information has come to us and that they should take steps so that farmers become aware of the MSP and a number of other schemes.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, it is now realised that what we need in this country is a second Green Revolution. But I would like the hon. Minister to let us know whether special attention will be paid to horticulture and floriculture. Our capacity for horticulture is so great that we can improve vastly the living standards of people living in the mountain areas particularly. In floriculture also, we can export orchids, we can export roses and other flowers. I believe this area has not received adequate attention. Will the hon. Minister assure us that in the new programmes, he will give top priority to horticulture and floriculture?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I entirely agree with hon. Member. It was true that enough steps had not been taken for development of horticulture in our country. But, last year, we gave approval to a new programme known as the 'Horticulture Mission'. An amount of Rs.2,300 crores has been provided for this particular programme and, practically, each and every State has been covered by this 'Horticulture Mission'. There is a separate programme for the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal in the area of horticulture. We provide up to 60 per cent subsidy to the farmers in the horticulture sector. I must say that there is tremendous response from various States.

Regarding floriculture, special programmes have been taken up for cultivation of green-house and normal crops.

M.S. Swaminathan Committee

*247. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee headed by the scientist Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has been set up to recommend steps to be taken along the Indian coastline in view of the Tsunami disaster last year;

(b) whether it is a proposed to draw a vulnerability line along the coast and amend the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) along this proposed line;

(c) whether it is proposed that new construction is to be allowed only beyond 1500 mts. from the coast; and

(d) whether Government have taken into account its impact on beach tourism and hotel locations if construction is banned upto one and a half kms. from the shore?